

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

COUNCIL TO SACK

451

**Zoo, nursery
to close
Services cut**

Hackney People's Press is in possession of a confidential Council document detailing the next round of spending cuts to be implemented in Hackney. The discussion of this document, which outlines cuts aimed to save five per cent of the budget of £2 million, was postponed when it was submitted to the Council Policy Committee on 25 September. First, the full impact of Heseltine's latest "punishment" cuts has to be assessed, which are thought to be in the region of a further £4-6 million. The document therefore accounts for about a quarter of the cuts that will be made this year and is concerned only with measures already planned before Heseltine's announcement.

Jobs are going to take the main brunt of the cuts with a planned loss of 451 jobs this year. Council workers see this as part of the plan of central and local government to cut wages and jobs of local authority workers.

The government policy of strict credit control with high interest rates and a high value of the pound is already having dramatic effects in the private sector. It now appears that public sector workers are managing to resist cuts in wages and jobs to a much greater extent.

The government strategy appears to be to take on the local authority workers. The traditionally strong sections of workers in the public sector, the miners and dockers, have already been "bought off" and the steel

HACKNEY PEOPLES PRESS Exclusive

and car workers are in no position to fight.

REAL WAGE

It is thought that of the two million jobs in local government 50 per cent are in line for the chop. On the wages front, NUPE expect that the reply to their 20 per cent pay claim, which only just maintains the level of real wages, will be in the order of three per cent (which is effectively a 15 per cent cut in real wages).

The effects of the loss of jobs will be a sharp

cutback of services in Hackney. The Zoo and Aviary in Clissold Park and the George Downing Nursery in Springfield Park will both be closed. The Housing Department will lose £216,000 which will cut back the already low level of services and maintenance on the estates. In the area of social services, four day nurseries will not open until 1 November and two will be sold to the National Children's Homes and Dr Barnardo's. Libraries will close early on Fridays and Saturdays and laundries and baths will have reduced opening times and increased charges. Rest control will be cut back drastically and the street sweeping rota will go from one week to two weeks.

GRANT

Hackney Community Relations Council and the Advice Centre are both to have their grants cut by five per cent.

Fightback, the local anti-cuts organisation, is already preparing a campaign of demonstrations and a week of action later in the autumn. However, the main resistance will come from the Council workers themselves, the residents on the estates and all those affected by the cuts in services. Every possible support must be given to them.



BUNKERED! This is the top secret bunker behind Stoke Newington Town Hall, where local Councillors and bureaucrats will hide in a nuclear war. CND think otherwise - see p.4

Hackney— Gazette An Apology



We would like to apologise for the Hackney Gazette.

The Hackney Gazette would like to apologise to the people of Hackney for not being on sale for two weeks during September. The reason was quite simple; its journalists were on strike for a better wage. When the paper returned on sale on Friday 26 September readers were not given any explanation of the enforced absence. Nor were they told that the paper had been completely written by the editor on his own, using copy supplied by scab agencies.

Many people probably think that all journalists are paid vast sums, and have huge expense accounts. That is not so. Certainly the Fleet Street stars are not short of a few bob to rub together, but on papers like the Hackney Gazette, even the best paid journalist, the news editor, gets just £75 per week. The junior reporter gets a mere £43! These rates are the same up and down the country, and at last London members of the union, the NUJ, have decided to push for "London Weighting" - extra pay to compensate for the extra expense of living in the capital.

First of all, the management offered £2 per week for this - hardly enough to cover a bus fare to work and back one day. The NUJ wanted £20. Management revised their

offer to £9.50 - and as we go to press, the journalists have refused this also.

Until 25 September the printing unions were refusing to cross NUJ picket lines, and the paper could not be printed. Now it has appeared but the distribution unions at the wholesalers still will not handle it. So your newsagent will only have got copies if he or she normally gets the paper direct from the Gazette's own staff.

Alternative

So, if you've bought this copy of Hackney People's Press because your newsagent hasn't got any Gazettes, we welcome you. You will find that this is a little different from the commercial paper you are probably used to. Hackney People's Press is an alternative monthly newspaper, not produced for profit but because we believe that the Gazette does not handle - or will not print - certain types of news and information. We hope you will find the paper interesting. If you disagree with us about anything, please let us know. We are an open group of people who meet regularly and always welcome comment and involvement. For details see the back page.

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TWO PAGE "WHAT'S ON" GUIDE
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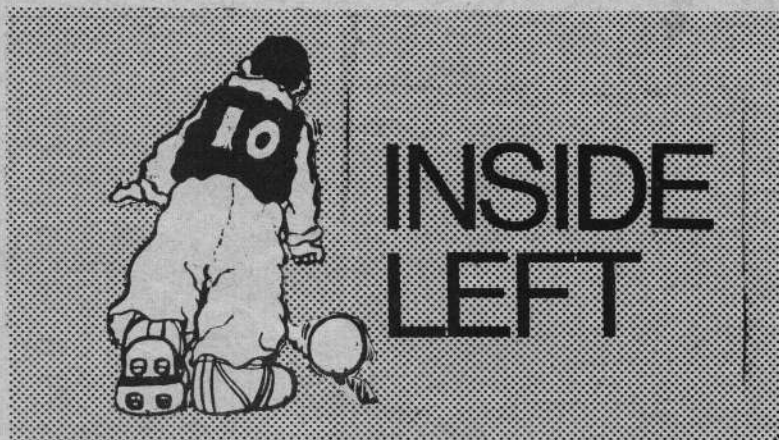
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LEFT BESIDE THE SEASIDE

"Stiffen up the sinews! Summon up the blood!" These are the kind of thoughts likely to be coursing through the minds of those lucky members of the Hackney Labour parties as they stroll the Golden Mile in Blackpool during conference week. The sea breezes will engender hope in their chests and stoke fire in their bellies. Or that is what they will hope. Because it's going to be a long, hard, cold winter.

Hackney Council carefully budgeted the books this year so that it would not be amongst the biggest local authority overspenders, in the belief that only the top two or three would be hit by the Heseltine axe. Then he pulled a fast one by going for no less than 14 councils, amongst whom was hapless Hackney, forced into the role of the reluctant martyr.

So our leaders have got yet another battle on their hands. We can expect much more of the machinations in smoke-filled rooms this winter, the long waits outside the Council chamber while meetings go on into the wee small hours, while the strategies are worked out. Will it be the "resign en bloc and stand for re-election on a no-cuts platform" favoured by the far-out Left? Of course not. My prediction is that it will be much the same as before - except worse. The people will not be consulted, merely



presented with a programme that does include cuts. They will be told some mish-mash about Hackney not making real cuts, that the only thing suffering is future expansion, not actual services.

THINKS

Thus thinks John Kotz, Deputy Leader of the Council, and the Hackney Central delegate to the Labour Party conference (as he has been for the past 20 years) as he takes the air...He has more to think about also, since next April he will be taking over the leadership of the Council full-time, when Martin Ottolengui becomes Mayor. Since his heart attack nearly two years ago, Martin has realised that he cannot really be leader in the sense he used to be.

He is stepping down - or up - and the power behind the throne is moving forward.

John Kotz will have three new bodies in his serried ranks next month. One of them will be an old face, Michael Ashton, who has been nominated for the Wenlock by-election. Mr Ashton was a councillor in the last Council, conspicuous by his inconspicuousness. Two will be new. The Labour candidates for Rectory and Chatham wards are respectively John McCafferty and Charles Clarke. Mr McCafferty is an unknown fish in the pulsating sea of Hackney politics. Mr Clarke is not. Even his best friends could not call Charles unnoticeable. From humble beginnings (University of Cambridge and the Presidency of the National Union of Students via Cuba), Charles has swum

fast since his arrival in Hackney just two years ago. Someone who could hardly tell his Hackney Marsh from his Dalston Junction then has now progressed to the GMC of Hackney Central Labour Party and led the coup against poor old stager Ellis Hillman. (See this column over the last two months for the full background to that sordid tale...) How fortuitous his living in Chatham Ward itself, the heartland of the constituency, within beckoning distance of the Trelawney Estate! Fortuitous indeed, for his being in the right place at the right time prevented the return of the dreaded Sir Lou Sherman.

CAMBRIDGE

There is the remote chance that Charles Clarke will be joined in the Council chamber in November by his old Cambridge buddy David Green. He is fighting Rectory as the Communist candidate against the left-wing John McCafferty. He is fighting on a broad front, representing community groups, ethnic minorities etc. This is the sort of schizophrenic Broad Left politics that the Hackney Communist Party has got itself into in the last few years. They declare themselves in favour of cementing alliances on a local level with left Labour

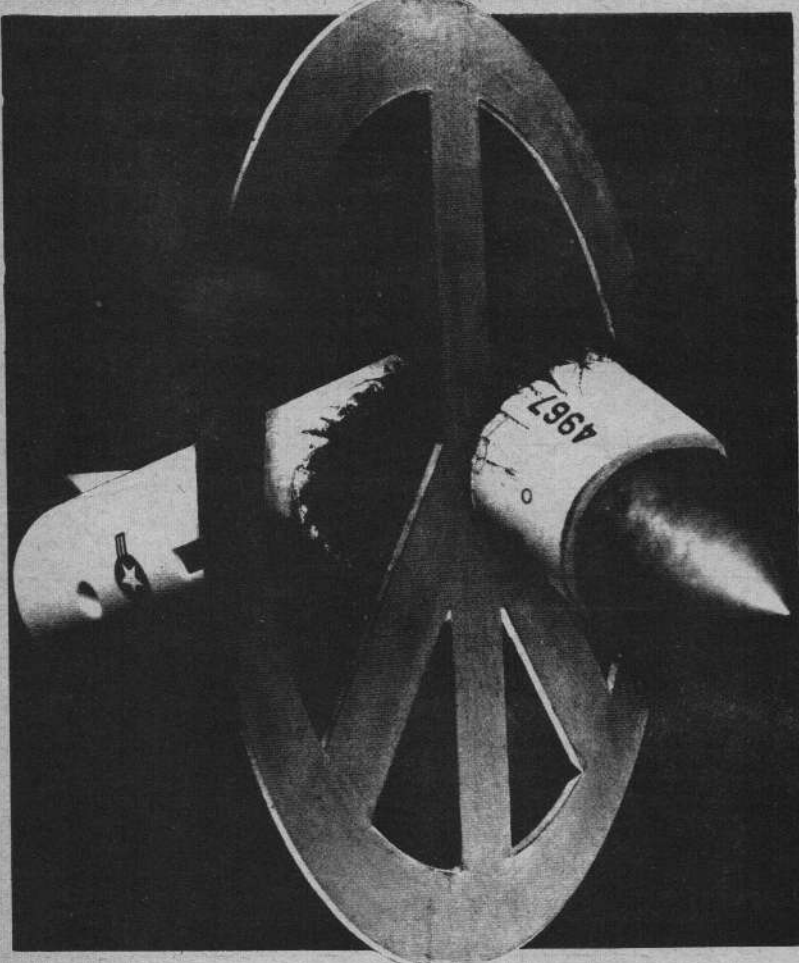
Party "forces", and yet they put up people to fight left candidates in elections. This was the case in the General Election when they fought Hackney North, against Ernie Roberts, for the simple reason that they always fought Hackney North...It cannot be denied that Hackney CP is one of the few bright spots left in the CP nationally. It has actually gained a large number of members over the last few years, while national membership has dropped considerably. And its influence in community organisations in the borough is high. But is this the right approach?

CONNED

Whatever the outcome of the elections, the prospects are not good for Labour Parties, national and local. Faced with a press that daily predicts a major split (not this paper!) it may yet be conned into one. All we mere mortals can hope is that those conference delegates smell something else other than cheap candy floss and old fish and chips in Blackpool. Something strong, tangy, red-blooded. Take a good sniff, comrades. Could it be? Yes, it is! By the ghost of Great Uncle Karl, it's...Socialism!

ADVERTISEMENT

EARLY WARNING!



PROTEST AND SURVIVE!

March & Rally, Sunday October 26th

Assemble 11am Hyde Park / Rally 2-30pm Trafalgar Square

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ☸

Advertisement inserted by Hackney North & Stoke Newington Labour Party

Wake up, Hackney!

Dear HPP

We seem to be living in a strange and unreal calm before the great storm. While our Party - the Labour Party - is setting its sights on an expansion of provision in education - and rightly too! - the Government seems determined to compress local government and especially the ILEA into an even tighter strait jacket than before.

PRECEPT

What is not clear is whether the Government will continue to allow ILEA to precept on the London boroughs, which the boroughs prefer, as it gives them a quasi-say in the running of the authority, even if at second-hand, or whether ILEA will be given a grant directly. All that "everyone" is agreed (ie the pundits from the Association of Metropolitan Authorities) is that the figures calculated for grant to the Inner London boroughs, the GLC and ILEA will be substantially below actual expenditure. The "grant-aided" expenditure for ILEA will be on average 81% of actual expenditure, Hackney along with the other 11 Inner London boroughs 75% and the GLC 90%. What all this means, in plain English, is that while the Labour Party Manifesto will be calling for an enhancing of expenditure in the education service, the Government will be aiming at not

simply containing ILEA within its own "envelope" but substantially reducing provision all round.

What does this mean for Hackney? It certainly means a new round of cuts, superimposed on last year's painful cuts - unless there is a massive campaign organised throughout the Borough against this new threat to standards in Hackney. It is not only our schools going through

Hackney, together with the GLC members and the MPs to brace themselves for the inevitable head on clash with the Government.

TURN OUT

The massive turn out at meetings all over Hackney against the break up of ILEA and the comforting (?) soothing (?) noises coming from Whitehall that ILEA might be reprieved can easily lull us into a state of unpreparedness. For even if ILEA is reprieved the financial thumbscrews will be operated with the object of "forcing" Labour councillors to do the dirty work of the Tory Government -- sacking teachers, cutting back on all provisions.

I would like to appeal to all teachers, educationalists, parents and pupils in the borough to join with the increasing band of elected representatives, trade unionists and co-operators who have determined that "they shall not pass". Another round of cuts in the education services is unthinkable and unacceptable.

I repeat my call - Wake Up Hackney, Before It's Too Late!

Ellis Hillman

GLC member for Hackney Central
Chairman of Governors, Hackney College.
Vice-chairman, ILEA.



the "hoops" of reorganisation - and this has been done without sufficient consultation. - We are going to face new attempts at cutting down on staff and administrative numbers. Our adult education classes, the youth service - and our very own unsung Hackney College.

There is still time to organise, to campaign. There is still time for the Councillors in the borough of

Tenants Beat B&B Racket

Jacky Morrison and Ajay Angra have lived in a single room in Evering Road, Clapton since July 1979. They share a kitchen and a bathroom with other tenants and a lavatory with 10 people. Until mid-September, they were paying £25 a week for this privilege.

Earlier this year, when one of them fell sick and the other unemployed they were threatened with eviction because they had fallen behind with the rent. Now, in what could be an important case for the rights of tenants a judge has declared that they are protected under the Rent Act, and awarded them damages for several incidents of forcible entry into their room which were part of a campaign of harassment.

Their landlords are a company called Adrahill Ltd., who own a number of properties in Hackney and the rest of east London. They operate a "bed and breakfast" racket, in an attempt to prevent their tenants claiming their rights under the Rent Act.

Jacky and Ajay had been living in another of Adrahill's houses in Wanstead. They were unhappy since they were prevented from using the only kitchen facilities there - in the house next door - and asked the landlord's agent, Ali Khan, if he could find them anything else. He offered them the room in Evering Road and told them that breakfast was available at the James Lodge "Guest House" at 180 Lower Clapton Road, some 10 minutes walk from their house. At Wanstead they had been made to sign a "bed and breakfast" agreement and a copy of the house rules - a spurious document which referred to their room as a "suite", and reserved the right for the management to force "guests" to share their rooms with other guests if necessary.

At the beginning of 1980, Ajay went sick and had to go into hospital for an operation. Jacky was now unemployed. There was a problem with Ajay's pay while he was off work, and they fell behind with the rent. One day, they received a letter from Mr Khan demanding that the full amount of £155 owed by paid to him within three days. Just two days later they were still in bed in the morning when Khan and a sidekick called Aaron Williams broke into their room and demanded the money in full. When they said they couldn't yet pay, Khan said: "Mr Williams, I want you to come here tomorrow; I want you to knock the windows out, cut the electricity off and the gas supply, take the doors off and throw out all their stuff."

Jacky and Ajay went later that day to the Hackney Law Centre, where a solicitor, Louise London, wrote to Khan and Williams and to the police and the Council legal department. They also completed an application form to the Rent Officer, to register a fair rent for the one room.

The next day another sidekick of Khan's, whom they only knew as Burt, turned up in Evering Road. He told Jacky and Ajay that Khan would be "sending his blokes round". Williams duly turned up later that afternoon, with an electrician. He threw away the copy of the letter from the solicitor when Ajay gave it to him, told the electrician to disconnect the fuses and tried to break down the door, which was not padlocked, first with a chisel, then a crowbar, but couldn't get in.

The next day was a Saturday, and Khan and Williams paid them another visit. Khan again threatened them with breaking down the doors and

windows. On the Monday, Burt turned up again. He tried a softer approach. "Mr Khan has asked me nicely to ask you to get out," he said. Ajay replied: "If he is so concerned why doesn't he get a court order?"

"Khan's not that sort of



bloke," replied Burt, "he'd rather pay somebody £100 to do the job for him."

The next day, however, it was Ajay and Jacky who had a court order; a temporary injunction from the County Court, preventing any of the Adrahill employees from molesting or harassing either them or their property.

In March, the Rent Officer

had not been prepared to agree that this was a tenancy where he could fix a rent, but in August had changed his position and started the registration process. But when he was about to fix the rent, Khan appeared and objected, producing copies of the documents signed by Ajay and Jacky when they were living in Wanstead. The Rent Officer then decided that he would wait until the court case was completed.

On September 11, the couple appeared in court again. After five months the court was finally going to decide their

a punishment and deterrent to the landlords and their men. There was also a further £25 for the expense of using calor gas (the Gas Board had cut off the supply in July since Adrahill had not paid its bill). He also declared that the tenancy was one protected by Section 1 of the 1977 Rent Act. This is something of a victory for private tenants' rights, since "bed and breakfast" tenancies are one way crooked landlords try to get round the Rent Act. The judge asked the Rent Officer to fix the rent, which he did the following week. He assessed it at £10.75 per week - a steep drop from the £25 Adrahill had been asking! This was backdated to March, when the application for the registration was made.

Hackney Law Centre is concerned about other cases like those of the Adrahill tenants. Louise London told HPP that the new Tory Housing Act will have an important effect on this type of case in the future. Rent Officers will no longer be able to backdate the fair rent to the date of application by the tenant. "It can take six months for a court to declare that the Rent Officer has the power to reduce a tenant's rent," she said. "If they made a quick decision and ran the risk of having it overturned by the courts later, then the tenant's rent would be reduced very quickly. Now the tenant may be forced to carry on paying an unfair rent for far too long."

Adrahill has also been busy over the summer. So many complaints have been received from various tenants that the Council has applied for a management order, to ensure the properties are properly run. This should mean that this bunch of profiteers and bullies will be forced to improve the condition of their properties or be prosecuted and have to pay back the Council for doing their work for them. It's slightly ironic that only a few months ago the same Council was still referring people who asked for details of bed and breakfast accommodation to Adrahill!

FOR SALE

houses

Hackney Council has decided to implement the Housing Bill due to become law early this month. The Act will amongst many other things require local authorities to sell council houses to any tenant who wishes to do so at up to 50 per cent off the market price.

The Council has longstanding policy not to sell council houses under any circumstances, but this has been overturned.

There has been no co-ordinated action between local councils. Tower Hamlets has already decided to sell and printed publicity and Islington has not decided, but has drawn up contingency plans.

However, Hackney Council is not the only one to overturn previous policy. The "left-wing dominated" NEC has recently advised all councils to obey this law and sell, but to try and

slow the process down to a minimum. As recently as July of last year they said: "We believe sales of this kind are an unacceptable abdication from the prime responsibility of a public housing authority."

So Hackney Council with over 15,000 on its waiting lists has decided to follow this advice of the NEC. The whole of the Labour Group are said to be against the sale of Council houses, therefore they are taking on no new staff and are producing no publicity. They are frightened that the Environment Secretary will use his powers to send in his own officials to supervise the sales if they refuse. But as one councillor, who voted against selling, remarked: "If the delaying tactics have any effect, the Heseltine boys will be sent in anyway."

Smalley Estate (left). You now have the chance to buy one of these houses. Wet suit provided free?



L.T. scapegoat

Yet again we are having to pay the price of GLC policies for London Transport with higher fares.

Ralph Bennett, who was sacked from his post of LT Chairman, was made a scapegoat for LT's failings. In fact it is the policy that has failed, and without a fundamental change things will get worse.

A fares and funding policy is needed, aimed at providing a cheap and reliable service, directed to meeting Londoners' full social needs. Major cities throughout Europe are recognising this, and pay appropriate subsidies. We in Britain seem hell-bent on cuts and higher fares.

With the GLC elections to take place next May all aspirants to London government must be made aware of the deep anger at the inadequacy of London's transport system.

We want most of all to see representatives of organisations at our conference. If you are a member of a

tenants and residents, local community, pensioners association or a trade union or workplace organisation, please urge them to be represented. But you are welcome as an individual.

With so many past pleas falling on deaf ears, people must come together to become an influential force demanding decent bus and train services.

The conference is at Friends House, Euston Road, on Wednesday 22 October, 7-9.45 pm.



A bus. Catch one - before they disappear.

The Hope and Despair of CND

Nothing currently gives rise to both greater pessimism and greater optimism than nuclear armaments and the campaign against them. On the one hand the doom-drenched scenario of the aftermath of the bomb; on the other people turning in their thousands against the spectre of war in an almost unprecedented growth of a movement.

Many doubtless felt the two extremes at Hackney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's meeting on 17 September. Hundreds turned up at the Town Hall to watch "The War Game", a film from the sixties which remains all

hoped, that anarchy might finally arrive AB, you were wrong. The state will ensure it survives, and even strengthens itself AB. It will justify itself by, for example, removing the rotting corpses, as in some super Black Death, to prevent them from stenching out the streets. It will also ensure relatives don't want to get near their beloved dead after they have been removed. This will be done by armed force. Equally it will guard food supplies and repel any hungry, rioting demonstrators who might be feeling the effects of chron-



toofrighteningly relevant in 1980. It was made by the BBC, and yet was never shown on television. Quite simply, it would provoke more reaction amongst the population than any government would be prepared to stomach. It has that kind of effect. The film vividly portrays the likely happenings during and after a nuclear attack on Britain. And the film is generous enough to presuppose enough warning for mass evacuations from major targets and population centres when nuclear war seems imminent, and a more minimal warning time before the first bomb is dropped. The consequences are not a pleasant sight, yet the inevitable outcome of slow and lingering death for many of the unlucky, and a more merciful, quicker blow to more fortunate persons would be for real. It was so at Hiroshima.

AFTER THE BOMB

Even less considered than the direct physical effects on an individual's health is the way we would be ruled "after the bomb". (It would probably be a convenient time to reorganise our calendar, with all dates to be taken from 0 AB (After the Bomb) Society would probably suffer greater change than the day Jesus was born.)

In case you thought, or

ic food shortages. "The War Game" gave us little room for comfort on these matters, however reassuring it may be to know the state will survive by protecting its own officials in highly superior conditions to your average citizen's.

After the depressing effects of watching that, things could only get better at the meeting. And indeed they did. By the end the familiarity of each of the local left-wing parties (including, or as well as, the Ecology Party), trying to persuade people that they had the right line was almost comforting. Doubtless the debate will continue to 1980 AB.

Dan Smith, Vice-chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, spoke on its behalf. He gave his own sound reasoning for the resurgence of CND, in fact a spawning of the fifties, attributing it to the new NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) strategy which underlies the decision to employ American cruise missiles in Britain. This is in conjunction with a hardening of attitude in government, reflected in the Tories' increased expenditure on defence and law and order, and reductions in everything else.

But Labour are far from blameless for this, as Dan Smith pointed out. NATO called for a three per cent

ABORTION RIP OFF

Local Doctors Attacked

Doctors in Newham and Hackney are charging women sums of between £3-10 for letters giving false accommodation addresses so that they can get abortions at the Mile End day-care clinic.

This was revealed by the doctor in charge of the Mile End clinic, Professor Peter Huntingford, at a recent meeting held by the Hackney Abortion Campaign. The meeting was called to try to gather support for a campaign to get a day-care abortion clinic for Hackney.

Presumably some of these doctors are the very people who are saying that Hackney can neither afford a clinic, nor has any need for one. But according to Professor Huntingford at least 1,200 women in Hackney have abortions a year, or would have if adequate facilities existed.

The tragedy is that while Mile End accepts without question every woman who goes there for help, the clinic is being killed off.

Professor Huntingford said: "We are doing over 1,000 abortions a year, but our resources are limited, particularly my own. The women of Hackney must demand their own facilities."

The National Abortion Campaign, Hackney Community Health Council and the Hackney Abortion Campaign have between them been pressing for a day-care abortion clinic in the borough for the past four years. The response from the City and Hackney Health District authorities has been that a. there's no money and b. the small use of Newham's day-care abortion clinic shows there is no need for another centre in the area.

Money

In answer to the first objection there is, according to local GP David Sloan, also at the meeting, still some money left from the Hackney partnership grant. Capital or revenue from these funds

could easily be used to launch a clinic. It would, in Professor Huntingford's reckoning, cost only about £10,000 to expand facilities at the Mile End clinic so it could cope with women from Hackney. Alternatively, and more economical in the long run, Hackney could spend £30,000 on setting up its own facilities. It isn't so much when you remember that Hackney health authority spent £12,000 last year on a counselling service that merely directed women to the humiliating and degrading experience of an NHS abortion, or to the expense of a private clinic.

To cite the Newham clinic as an excuse for not setting up a clinic in Hackney is still more of a mockery. During the meeting Professor Huntingford declared that the Newham clinic was not a day-care clinic. Women have come to him for help from Newham, where they have merely been advised to go to a charity or private clinic, or to the NHS.

'Disgrace'

Not only are GPs in Newham failing to tell women about the clinic, but many of them are also telling them they will have to pay for abortions. "It's a disgrace," Professor Huntingford said. "They set it up on the wrong basis and they don't know how to run it. I will not be associated with Newham."

This is a very vehement statement, but as Professor Huntingford said himself: "I always get angry at these meetings and I seem to get angrier each year - but despite my anger I still fight."

And this is exactly what he suggested women in Hackney should do. They should "raise their voices every time they object to what is being done to them. Make the doctors bloody uncomfortable about what they are doing." This kind of direct action is, in his opinion, far more effective than "signatures on paper".

Campaigners should also work on their local GPs and family practitioner committees, as well as work with the Hackney Community Health Campaign.

'Monster'

Hackney's main problem is that "monster", St Bart's hospital, which devours over £1 million every year, yet serves not the local community but commuters and a lucky middle-class few from Islington. If Hackney could dump Bart's on to Islington, it would no longer overspend regularly on its health budget.

One possible site for a day-care clinic would be St Leonard's hospital, on the Kingsland Road. However, the HCHC is opposing any move to close or change St Leonard's facilities. Hackney needs its emergency and acute medical services, besides which, many doctors at St Leonard's are known to be anti-abortion. The best option, and here Professor Huntingford and representatives from the HCHC were in agreement, would be to expand the facilities at Mile End. A good counselling service could be set up in Hackney to work with Mile End. Professor Huntingford believes it is very important to have a strong local contact centre.

Abortion centre aside, there are no adequate facilities for post-natal and maternity care in Hackney, either. Women are being forced to travel outside the borough to get good maternity care and the two demands should be linked in a concerted drive to give the women of Hackney their rights.

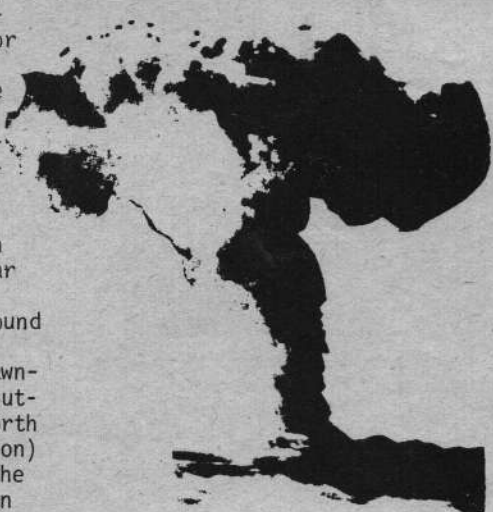
Hackney Abortion Campaign has planned several "direct action" campaigns for the near future. They need more support, however, both in money and womanpower. Regular meetings are held every other Monday at 8 pm at the Factory, Matthias Road, N16, to which all women are welcome. The next meeting will be on 13 October.

abandonment of last year's SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) agreement between the USSR and USA. It is also highly critical of Britain's and USA's scare-mongering over the Russian threat by use of misleading statistics. As an example, Dan Smith quoted our Ministry of Defence's figures of 750 Soviet long-range land based nuclear missiles compared with none for NATO. This figure ignores the fact that NATO's long-range missiles are sea-based, and for all types of missiles the Soviets are outnumbered by about one to thirteen. CND has a valuable role as the voice of sanity and truth in the face of war-mongering, propagandising governments.

It has its own policies, too. CND advocates that Britain should give up her nuclear weapons, remove nuclear bases and withdraw from NATO. This is now seen very much in the context of

a European Nuclear Disarmament movement embracing East and West. How far this has practically gone at such an early stage is difficult to assess, but a movement transcending national boundaries has begun this year and much hope is drawn from recent events in Poland where the Soviet Union has been effectively defied in a genuinely working-class effort. There is no reason why such movements should be limited to economic demands, and indeed the gains have been largely political. There is hope too in the defiance of NATO countries like Denmark and Holland who won't have nuclear weapons foisted on them, and in the non-aligned movement, in which Yugoslavia has led the way. But it's a hard, uphill climb. CND had plenty of support last month, and it needs all it can get right now.

For further information contact Hackney CND at Box 27 136 Kingsland High St., E8.



increase in military spending per year by its members from 1978 for five years. Labour increased defence by four and a half per cent (in real terms) in its last year, claims Smith. CND is concerned, too, about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the effective

EMERGENCY CALL FOR ST. LEONARD'S

It is three months since the Working Party report on the future of St. Leonard's hospital. Yet the Area Health Authority (AHA), which was due to meet on the 9th of this month to discuss the findings of the report, have postponed any decision on the fate of the Kingsland Road hospital until sometime in November. The effect of this delay can only serve to lower the already fading morale of the hospital staff, who have been working with the threat of closure for over a year.

A further complication is that if the Community Health Council (CHC), the consumer watchdog body on the local health service, offers any formal objection to the AHA's decision on the hospital, then the whole issue will have to be referred to the Health Minister for consultation. This process could take anything up to 2 years.

The CHC have a number of points to raise in relation to the AHA's 'temporary' reductions in services at St. Leonard's - which have closed down the Accident & Emergency Department between 8pm and 8am and shut down 2 surgical wards. The main criticism the CHC is raising is the lack of financial evidence to justify the cutbacks. Although the AHA believe their action will save £400,000, they haven't produced any figures to back up their claim.

Neither have the AHA shown just what burdens have been

placed on other hospitals in Hackney with the re-routing of essential services from St. Leonard's.

The other main contention is the way the St. Leonard's Working Party seemingly disregarded the overwhelming view of community groups, GPs, hospital staff, MPs and the local authority, that essential services should stay at

Leonard's without assurances that the standard of health care in the borough will not be seriously affected. A further postponement on the future of the hospital will, however, only serve to lower the confidence of the doctors, nurses and other staff there that there will be a return to normal facilities.

Because the AHA is least



the hospital. The CHC commented: "It is not good enough for the Administrators to say that it is the inherent conservatism of the community that is the problem when they themselves have rigidly adhered to a pattern of planning and have consistently ignored the contrary arguments...."

As the only body which can present the arguments of the community to the AHA, the CHC is unlikely to allow a permanent reduction of essential services at St.

concerned with the views of the community, it is important for the community to express its views through a campaign to save St. Leonard's. Although the AHA will not be discussing the future of the hospital at its October 9 meeting, the Hackney Health Campaign may still lobby the authority outside their offices on that day. The health campaign will also be holding a public meeting on October 7 in the Small Library, Edwards Lane, to discuss how to fight for better hospital services.

£ bike aid

BIKE IT



Good news! The Hackney Cyclists' Action Group have got their £15,000 from the Dept of Environment. This year's Urban Aid grants have escaped the Tory axe and with help from Hackney Council and all cyclists in Hackney, the Hackney Bicycle Study should be on its way.

The Cyclists Group is contacting all existing members and London Cycling Campaign members (over 100) in Hackney to get them all involved.

A Technical Group has been proposed by Hackney Cyclists' bringing representatives from the Council, the GLC, Planners and members of HCAG and LCC to meet on a regular basis to oversee the 12-month survey.

The aim is to plan new cycle ways through the borough (see Bike It, reviewed below), bike parking facilities at public buildings, shops and workplaces. All this will depend on the active support of all Hackney cyclists and the financial position of Hackney Council and the new GLC next year to push for actual implementation of the study.

Cycling readers are urged to join in this exciting project and contact Hackney Cyclists' Action Group, tel 254 9302/4559. Meetings are held at 10 Kynaston Road, N16 every second Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is on 14 October at 8 pm.

This guide, now on sale, covers the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Islington, Hackney, Havering, Waltham Forest, Newham, Barking and Redbridge.

There are 28 pages packed with information, such as 54 local shops and their services, local cycling clubs, bike facilities on trains (including station parking), legal matters, etc. There is also a 20-page map section showing the location of the listed shops and suggested bike routes, avoiding where possible the busy routes.

Although the format is similar to the companion booklet called On Your Bike - the guide for central London - any similar material has been totally rewritten and updated.

The guide costs 50p and is available direct from A Marshall, 20 Talbot Gardens, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex and local bike shops and bookshops.

ADVERTISEMENT

REVIEWS

BANDS OF HOPE

In 1877 the members of the Borough of Hackney Club, a radical working people's club then situated in Haggerston Road, paid a fraternal visit to the Walthamstow Club. They took along their banners on the march and arrived, said a contemporary report, with "brass bands and gigantic banners flying, on which were inscriptions expressing the advanced political opinions known to distinguish the men of Hackney." (Things have changed since then!) Another report estimated that there were no less than 151 clubs in Hackney and east London "shot through with golden threads of enthusiasm...the movement is a propaganda with its faith and hopes, its literature and its leaders." Hackney was a highly important seedbed of early socialist policies in Britain, supplying many members of the First International Working Men's Association, set up by Marx in 1864 with others.

Barry Burke and Ken Worpole have done a valuable job in digging out information about these clubs, in this pamphlet published by Centerprise. It is fascinating to compare the amount of activity which went on in these clubs with the apathy which socialist agitation

attracts today. With a borough population of probably half of what it is now some of these clubs had memberships of over 1,000. Talks were held on all sorts of subjects - history, poetry, temperance, universal suffrage, vivisection, patriotism and, of course, many different aspects of socialism.

Speakers were local people and also guests like William Morris and the young George Lansbury. The clubs were essentially working men's clubs - the forerunners of the sexually segregated bastardised developments that still exist today. It is noticeable that few women were involved, although their development into organisations like the Social Democratic Federation and the Socialist League involved early feminists.

Ken Worpole's introduction traces this club movement through to the continuing tradition of "attempts to create oppositional forms, which in Hackney in the 1920s and 1930s found form in the very popular Workers' Theatre and the Left Book Club, and in the 1970s re-emerged with the revival of the WEA and popular community and cultural centres such as Chats Palace, Centerprise, Hoxton Hall and the Labour

and Trades Hall." If only they had half as many activists in them today!

There is history in the streets of Hackney, in the sites of these clubs: places like Kingsland Road, Goldsmith's Row and Kenmore Road. Someone should put up commemorative plaques on these sites - not blue, or course, but red.

Hackney Propaganda is published by Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, price 80p.

Poplarism

Lawrence and Wishart have reissued Poplarism in paperback, just over a year since it first appeared. (For an extensive review refer back to HPP, November 1979.)

This is the story of the radical Poplar Borough Council, led by George Lansbury, who fought throughout the 1920s on behalf of the people they represented. By the simple device of withholding the money they were suppose to raise for the LCC, they forced the Government to take notice of their plight, and to give in, partially at least, to their demands.

Poplarism by Noreen Branson, Lawrence and Wishart, £2.95.

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Rectory By-election/Oct 30th

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Published by Jackie Barron, 198a Evering Road, E5.

WHATS ON OCTOBER

THEATRE

HOXTON HALL THEATRE 128a

Hoxton St, N1. (739 5431)
Programme for October:

- * *Fri 3 Oct*: 'The Keepers'
- * *Fri 10 and Sat 11 Oct*: 'Where There's A Will'
- * *Tue 14 Oct*: Monstrous Regiment in 'A Dialogue between a Prostitute and her Client'. Starts 7.30 pm.
- * *Fri 17 Oct*: Major Plumptre's Penny Music Hall.
- * *Fri 24 Oct*: Concert of Classical Guitar Music, presented by Hernan de Morales. Free. From 5.30-6.30 pm.
- * *Sat 25 Oct*: 'Mandrill', presented by On the Road Theatre Co.
- * *Fri 31 Oct*: 'The Jackpot' by Platypus Theatre Co.

All performances start at 8 pm sharp unless otherwise stated. Tickets: Adults £1, Students/claimants 50p, Children 30p, OAP's 20p - unless otherwise stated.

NEW HALF MOON THEATRE 213 Mile End Rd, E1.

* *From 3rd Oct*: 'Play Things' by William Sorayan. This production, which comes straight from its phenomenal success at Vienna's English Theatre, is William Sorayan's first new work for the theatre for a decade. Directed by Mai Zetterling with set illustrations by Andy Warhol, the play will run for 2 weeks with a view to an early transfer to the West End (following in the footsteps of 'Pal Joey'). Previews from 29 September.

* *31 Oct-29 Nov*: 'Dreamer' A musical specially commissioned from East End writer Bill Colvill and composer Mel Robinson. 'Dreamer' portrays an East End family celebrating the coming of age of their favourite and youngest son, Terry. The father retires as head of the family and divides his empire between the 3 sons - Terry will have none of it. Against a background of crumbling Britain a violent family drama is enacted with humour and compassion.

Performances: Mon-Sat 8 pm. Tickets: £2.50 till 4 Nov, then £3.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD

Gerry Raffles Sq, E15.
Box Office: 534 0310.

* *Till Oct 11*: 'The Mummy's Tomb'. A musical horror show starring Adrienne Posta and Anna Sharkey. Written and directed by Ken Hill with songs by Alan Klein and Ken Hill. With promises of thrills, romance and horror, replete with man-eating crocodiles and giant cobras, this "voyage of discovery" should provide some solid entertainment; but we are told it is not for the faint of heart!

Performances: Mon-Sat at 8pm.

* *Oct 15-17*: 'School's Out' A rock musical presented by Newham Youth Theatre. Written by Les Scott and Roy

Oakes, with music by Ken Bolam. 'School's Out' is a follow up to the youth theatre's successful 'Rockafella' which played at the Theatre Royal last year.

Performances: 7.30pm
Tickets £1.50

* *Oct 19-26*: 'N.I.F.T.' 'E.' Presents a broad view of theatre for young people including TIE puppets, dance and drama. Leading companies from New York, Berlin and Melbourne will be taking part as well as British TIE teams.

Times of events:
10.30am - Talks and lecture demonstrations.
4.30pm - Workshops.
8.00pm - Evening performances.

See also under Courses

* *Oct 31-Nov 22*: 'The Jockey Drives Late Nights' Adapted from Tolstoy's 'The Power of Darkness', the play lays bare the emotions and motives behind the kind of sensational domestic tragedies which appear regularly in the popular Sunday papers.

Performances: Mon-Sat at 8pm



CHATS PALACE 42-44 Brooksbys Walk, E9 986 6714

List of events for October:

- * *Fri 3*: Hackney Community Housing Benefit. With the band Black Slate. 8pm.
- * *Sat 4*: Mr. George Binmore's Celebrated Music Hall. 8pm.
- * *Sun 5*: Lunchtime Jazz. 12pm
- * *Fri 10*: Hackney Music Collective Benefit for Save the Marshes. Bands: Oxy and the Morons, Badges Unknowns. 8pm
- * *Sat 11*: Alternative Cabaret. 8pm.
- * *Sun 12*: Lunchtime Jazz. 12pm
- * *Fri 17*: Rational Theatre Co present 'The Sea Wolf' 8pm.
- * *Sat 18*: Epic Theatre Co. present 'Nice Guy'. 8pm.
- * *Sun 19*: Lunchtime Jazz.
- * *Fri 24*: Aberdeen Park Nursery Benefit. Bands: Thomson Twins and Local Heroes. 8pm.
- * *Sat 25*: Cunning Stunts present Cabaret. 8pm.
- * *Sun 26*: Lunchtime Jazz.
- * *Fri 31*: Whittington Park Adventure Playground Benefit. Bands: Wah Eat, The Realists, Fabulous Poodles.

For further information, plus details of new Workshop programme, phone Chats: 986 6714.

CINEMA

KONAK CINEMA 11 Stoke Newington Rd. (254 2415)

- * *From Sun 5*: 'Shining'
- * *From Sun 19*: 'Xanadu'
- * *From Sun 26*: 'The Big Brawl'

Please check with box office for further details.

RIO CINEMA Stoke Newington High St, N16.

For details of this month's programme, see the Rio ad.

MUSIC

CROWN & CASTLE

Dalston Junction, E8
(254 3678)

The Meeting Place folk club has Irish folk music every Fri, Sat & Sun evenings. Resident band Cara. Plus surprise guests.

8.30 - 11.00 pm. Free

THE PEGASUS 109 Green Lanes, N16 (226 5930)

Resident jazz bands nearly every night of the week. Big Chief plays every Sat. night; check with the Pegasus for music on other nights. Admission (unless otherwise specified): £1.

MEETINGS

HACKNEY ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP

* *Wed 29 Oct*: Public meeting on 'The Struggle in South Africa', with a speaker from the Anti-Apartheid Movement. 8 pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. Free.

HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP

* *Thurs 9 Oct*: Public meeting on Uranium mining. Starts 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY

* *Wednesday October 15*: Public meeting: Your chance to hear Derek Robinson (former convenor, Longbridge factory) on 'The Fight for Workers' Rights'. Discussion will cover the Employment Bill, unemployment, the fight for trade union organisation, etc.

8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. Adm. free.

HACKNEY FIGHTBACK

Mon 6th October: Public meeting, at 8 pm. To be held at the Trades & Labour Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Shore-ditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Rd, E2.

* *Tuesday 7 October*: Public meeting to discuss the closure of Accident & Emergency services in Hackney and E. London, how to resist them and how to fight for better services. Speakers from the Hackney Ambulance service, St. Leonards Hospital casualty dept., Royal Northern Hospital campaign and others.

Small Library Hall, Edwards Lane, N16 (next to Stoke Newington Town Hall) at 7.30pm.

* *Thursday 9 October*: Picket of the Area Health Authority when it meets to decide the future of St. Leonards Hospital. Meet outside the AHA, Addison House, Chart St, N1 (nearest tube Old St) at 2.30pm.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST CHALLENGE

* *Tuesday 7 October*: Public meeting - 'What Strategy for the Anti-Nuclear Movement?' 7.30pm at Dalston Library, Dalston Lane, E8.

LEABRIDGE COMMUNIST PARTY

* *Thursday 2 October*: Public meeting - Max Levitas on the 'Crisis in the East End'. 8pm Homerton Library.

RADIATION AND HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICE

* *Friday 10 Oct*: "The Price of Nuclear Madness" - a talk by Dr Helen Caldicott, National President of Physicians for Social Responsibility in the U.S.

Dr Caldicott recently made the decision to abandon the practice to work on reversing the Arms Race. In Australia and the US she has worked to inform the public and unions of the dangers of the nuclear power programme. Her London talk will focus on the immediate and long-term medical and biological effects of nuclear weapons and the feasibility of domestic fall-out shelters in the light of these effects.

7.30pm at Caxton Hall, SW1, in the Norfolk Room. For further information contact: Claire Ryle, Radiation & Health Information Service, 9 Marion Close, Cambridge CB3 0HN. Tel: 0223 350917.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST TENDENCY

The Next Step readers' group meets every Thursday at 7.30 at the Trades & Labour Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Discussions are on racism, Ireland, unemployment and other important issues.

Contact: ELWAR, Box 22, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

WOMEN'S HEALTH A series of 6 weekly talks, commencing Monday 13th October at 7.30pm. By popular request the Community Health Council (CHC)



is organising another series of talks on 'Women's Health' this month. Leaflets and posters will be distributed around the borough as soon as the topics and speakers have been finalised.

Also on Monday 6th October at 7.30pm at the CHC for all those interested in setting up or coming to a regular Women's Health Group.

All meetings will take place at the CHC, 210 Kingsland Rd, E2. (Phone 739 6308/8351)

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THE RIO
107, KINGSLAND HIGH ST., E.8.

Tel : 254 6677

<p>OCTOBER</p> <p><u>Weekly Programme</u></p> <p>Mon 6th for 6 days Thurs 23rd for 3 days</p> <p>Mon 27th for 6 days</p> <p><u>Late Night Shows</u></p> <p>Sat 4th October</p> <p>Fri 17th October</p> <p>Sat 18th October</p> <p>Fri 24th October Sat 1st November</p> <p><u>Sunday Afternoon Shows</u></p> <p>Sun 5th October</p> <p>Sun 12th October</p> <p>Sun 19th October Sun 2nd November</p>	<p>MESSIDOR & THE SALAMANDER THE CHINA SYNDROME plus DR. STRANGELOVE CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND - SPECIAL EDITION</p> <p>THE GRAPES OF WRATH plus FROM HERE TO ETERNITY THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES & DIRTY HARRY PERFORMANCE & THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH EASY RIDER & THE WILD ONE THE HARDER THEY COME plus ROCKERS</p> <p>WOMEN ONLY BENEFIT. LESBIAN LINE BICYCLE THIEVES & TO DIE IN MADRID DEATH IN VENICE & THE DAMNED RENALDO & CLARA (4 hr version)</p>
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We regret we cannot supply further details of the Rio's October programme, but check with Rio box office for the full programme.

COURSES

CRAFT WORKSHOP 26 6001

The Factory, Mathias Rd, N16
Creche facilities and coffee available. Workshop runs on Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.30

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

* 8th October: Workshop: "Simple Tools, Simple Techniques". Run by the Children's Scrap Project, the workshop provides materials - just bring a pair of good scissors. There will also be an opportunity to discuss summer playschemes.
Held at: Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St at 8pm.

* Last week in October
Exhibition of community play projects in Hackney. Designed to get ideas for playschemes, etc. To be held at: Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old St, EC1.

For further information contact HPA at Shoreditch Town Hall, tel: 739 2394.

HACKNEY WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (WEA)

The Hackney WEA produces a programme of classes each term in response to local needs and interests.

Classes and workshops are run on friendly and informal lines with everybody welcome to make a contribution. By attending one of the classes you automatically become a member of the WEA which entitles you, if you wish, to help run the Hackney branch and propose new ideas for classes.

Autumn Programme:

* Tuesdays, weekly, starting October 7: Claimants and changes in Social Security. The course looks at the situation of claimants now and the cuts that the Government is planning. One aim of the course might be the formation of a Hackney Claimants' Union. 7.30 pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

* Wednesdays, fortnightly, starting 8 October: Hackney Writers' Workshop. A fortnightly open workshop for local people interested in writing, not for profit or status, but to find a means of self-expression through short stories, autobiography and poems. 8pm at Centerprise.

* Wednesdays, weekly, starting 24 September: Women Today. A weekly course of talks and discussions on topics concerning local women. Playgroup provision available. 1.30-3.30 pm at Hoxton Hall, 128 Hoxton St, N1.

* Mondays, fortnightly, starting 13 October: Politics and film in the Third Reich. A critical look at a small series of films, to understand how politics and ideology can be expressed in cinema. 7.30 pm at Centerprise.

* Venue and starting date to be arranged: The Fen in the City. A course of talks on the history, birds, insects and plants of the Walthamstow Marshes and the current campaign to save the marshes.

Further details of all courses

FASCINATION THEATRE

presents:-

DEATH

A comedy in one act by WOODY ALLEN

Directed by STEFANIE LOWE

Music by Eileen Dixon

8.30pm

MON, OCT 6; WED OCT 8; THURS OCT 9

Britannia Pub, Mare St, E8
next to Hackney Town Hall

ADMISSION: 75p, adults; 50p, claimants; 25p, children.
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR; Sorry, no advance booking.

The play will last approximately 1 hour.

es, which usually run for 6 sessions, are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Hackney WEA, 76 Carysfort Rd, N16.

OTHER EVENTS

JUMBLE SALES

* Sat 4 Oct: 2.00 pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E8.
* Sat 11 Oct: Hackney Women's Aid jumble sale. 1.30 at Centerprise. Admission 5p.

CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE LONDON TRANSPORT

* Wed 22 Oct: Conference on the present state of London Transport, the effect of GLC policies and what fundamental changes are needed. It will be held at the Friends House, Euston Road (opposite Euston Station), from 7-9.45 pm.



BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

1st-4th October, at the Wembley Conference Centre.
Opening times:

11am - 9pm Wednesday
10am - 8pm Thursday & Friday
10am - 6pm Saturday

Admission charges:

Children - 25p any day
Adults - £1.20 Wed.,
- 60p Thurs,
Fri & Sat.

(after 5.30pm Thurs & Fri, adults half-price)
Further details and prospectus from: The Secretary, BPE Ltd.
PO Box 329 London SW1A 2HE.
Tel: 083-482 433.

HACKNEY AGAINST CUTS IN EDUCATION (HACE)

* Sat 4 Oct: Day Event. To be held at Hackney Trades & Labour Hall, 96 Dalston La,

HACKNEY WOMEN'S AID

HWA now runs a telephone advice line for women, providing help for those who need to find a refuge, or seek advice on housing, custody, injunctions, etc. The advice service is open on:

Thursdays 1-5pm, on 249 8334.

NEWHAM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE-IN-EDUCATION (NIFTIE)

From October 19 - 25, at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East (Gerry Raffles Sq, E15.)

The festival is to be "a celebration and investigation of theatre in an educational context..." Every afternoon various schools will be organising theatre work, and several young theatre groups will be taking part, from both home and abroad.

Talks will take place at 10.30 every morning on various aspects of educational theatre:

- Mon - Stuart Bennet, Sen. Lecturer in Community Theatre Arts at Rose Bruford College.
- Tue - Lynda Zimmerman, Executive Dir. of Creative Arts Team, New York.
- Wed - Volker Ludwig, Artistic Dir., Grips Theatre, Berlin.
- Thu - Mike Merwitzer, Ludus Dance-in-Education
- Fri - John Hodgson, Head of School of Drama and Theatre Studies, Bretton Hall.

Workshops every afternoon at 4.30pm.

Evening shows will take place at 8pm at the Theatre Royal and will put on performances by visiting drama companies. Invited companies include: CAT, Steve Hansen, Small Change, Ludud, Women's Theatre Group, Medium Fair.

For further information and booking forms contact: Ian Bowater, NIFTIE, Education Offices, Stratford Broadway, London E15.

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

* Sat 11 Oct: Youth Rally, to "Help Bury Thatcher".

Events:

March Against Unemployment; starts 2pm at Arcola St, N16 (off Stoke Newington Rd).
March to Hackney Trades & Labour Hall, 96 Dalston Lane.

At the Trades Hall there will be a film - 'Divide and Rule, Never!' - about racialism and the problems of youth. Starts 3pm; adm. 20p.

From 8pm onwards there will be a reggae disco at the Trades Hall. Adm. 50p.

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A SERIES OF HACKNEY PORTRAITS

"I don't know his name but he plays chess."

Photo: Maggie Patrick.

Collective Harmony

Hackney Musicians' Collective is a collective of thirteen bands, who specialise in doing benefits. Their next one is for 'Save the Marshes' and is to raise money in an effort to stop Walthamstow Marshes being turned into a gravel pit. ('Save the Marshes' benefit is at Chats Palace on 10 October.)

The Hackney Musicians' Collective is local musicians as opposed to bands. HMC is political with a small 'p'. That is, they are interested in doing something in Hackney. As a spokesperson for the HMC said: "We are proving that musicians aren't just a bunch of wankers...We're trying to use what we're good at (which is making music) for the good of the community."

"Also, we're trying to help musicians who are not getting satisfaction out of the music industry."

The HMC is going to put out

an album next year of bands who are in the collective, and to set up a label which should finance most of the things they intend to do after that. These include a rehearsal studio and maybe - "in the incredible distant future" - a recording studio.

Other activities HMC are involved in include a Youth Workshop scheme at Chats Palace, but they are also interested in getting involved in other workshops. If anyone is interested in the Hackney Musicians Collective, contact: Venita Parker, at Chats Palace most days. (phone 986 6714.)

The 13 working bands in the collective, who are available for gigs, are: The Managing Directors, Oxy & The Morons, Badges, The Alternative, N16, The Nerve, Vozhd, International Rescue, Lazy Lizards, Pretty Graves, Unknowns, Ivory Coasters....plus one new unnamed band.

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H.A.C.E.



An article appeared in the August edition of Hackney People's Press, explaining how Hackney Against Cuts in Education (HACE) was formed and what we did during the summer term. Despite the outstanding success at Gayhurst Infants School, we have not been inactive since then and we are still campaigning to stop all education cuts in Hackney.

Over the holidays we held a Carnival Against the Cuts in Stoke Newington Town Hall. This included an afternoon party for schoolchildren which attracted about 300 kids and parents. As many children don't have a lot to do over the long summer holidays, we saw the Carnival providing something

that is neglected by the education authorities. What happens to kids over the holidays, when all the space and resources used by the authorities is locked away? The IEA does lay on some summer schemes, but they are too few and too short. The Carnival was a great success, and proved that kids in Hackney need more events to go to over the holidays. In the evening, a theatre group called Controlled Attack did a play called "A Secondary Education". One of the players, Leslie Mildner, went to school in this area and wrote a book with a friend, Bill House, about the strange and alienating experience of going to secondary school. This book, *The Gates*, has been published by Centerprise and is now used in the English departments of most local schools. The play was ideal for HACE, as it expressed our hopes of improving Hackney schools, making them more open and democratic.

PUBLIC MEETING

Now we are back at school and HACE is holding an event on Saturday 4 October in Hackney Trades Hall, Dalston Lane. At 2 pm there is a play and a film showing *The Gayhurst Occupation*, the extraordinary event that took place last term when parents took over their school and stopped the education cuts. This is followed by a public meeting at 4 pm on How to Stop Education Cuts with speakers Mike Mulvaney (Head of Gayhurst Infants) and Annette Peyton (Secretary of HACE). Admission is free for the afternoon and there is a creche with kids' theatre. In the evening Freddy's Disco will be providing sounds from 8 pm. Admission is £1 and there will be a bar and food.

In the schools this term the activity is around the PTAs (Parent/Teacher Association). If you are a parent or a teacher in a Hackney school, there is something that can be done before the next round of education cuts (which threaten to be even worse than last year's) hit us. Get your school's PTA to call a meeting of all parents on the cuts, and ask HACE to send a speaker. We can be contacted at Box 25, 136 Kingsland High St., E8.

Hassletime in Hackney

Hackney is one of the boroughs to suffer a new vicious and unprecedented attack at the hands of the Tory government. It could lose over £1 million in government support for local services for being a bad boy. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, claims that Hackney has not reduced its expenditure sufficiently to keep in line with their policies. The threat to Hackney and 13 other councils has been based on an arbitrary decision with unpleasant implications for local authorities' autonomy. Their ability to decide what they shall provide for local people and how much to spend on them is threatened.

Heseltine has hit at Hackney in three ways. In addition to the £1.01 million reduction for overspending, they will have to stomach their share of a £200 million reduction in the amount by which central government supports 454 local councils in England and Wales. (This is known as the Rate Support Grant). And, on top of this, Hackney, Islington and Lambeth are to lose £3 million in urban aid between them. This is part of the valuable partnership money for community projects. In total it looks as though between £6 and £7 million will be withdrawn from Hackney.

'GOOD BOYS'

Leader of the Council Martin Ottolangui attacked the government's moves at the Council's meeting of 23 September as "appalling and ill-considered" and as "arbitrary and unjust measurements" for which the unemployed will foot the bill. He pointed out that Hackney Council had previously been congratulated as "good boys" in cutting expenditure, although they had no choice but to do so. They were in the process of revising budgets again, but had not been given enough time by the government.

Heseltine, in deciding which boroughs were to be made examples of, had picked a figure of 30 per cent above a rate level which he considered satisfactory. So councils with the highest rates suffered greatest loss

of support, causing most damage to the poorest boroughs.

Because London rateable values are particularly high as a result of high property values, the government "earmarks" a proportion of the amount yielded through the rates and knocks this off the Rate Support Grant. So there are effectively two rates - the real rate which is the amount the Council receives, and the notional or "adjusted" rate, which is the amount before any cash is taken by central government. In Hackney the notional rate is 190p and the real rate is 122p. In Heseltine's view, this is too much. He decided anyone 30 per cent above a notional level of 119p (another arbitrary figure), would be penalised. This is quite unfair, as anyone who is 29 per cent over is untouched, but one per cent more makes a crucial and expensive difference.

OVERSPENDING

Much criticism has been made of this method of assessing who is overspending as it penalises poor boroughs. For example, Hackney obviously has nothing like the rateable value of property as Westminster, and so has to set a much higher rate to raise the same amount of money. Heseltine could have used another method to assess overspending is a simple percentage of money raised by councils. If he had done this when the "bastions of socialism" (with one exception) which he has picked on, would have come off no worse than anyone else. Indeed, on this basis such counties as Cambridgeshire and the authority of Reigate, both Tory, would have been among the first to be penalised.

NOT REAL CUTS

One of the ironies of this latest Tory move is that it is not even a real cut - an overall reduction in public expenditure. Both the urban aid and the £18 million to be held back from the "unlucky 14" will be redistributed to other authorities. It is only Hackney's share of the overall £200 million off the Rate Support Grant reduction for England and Wales that is a cut. The government will be seeking to push its Local Government Bill through the



Heseltine - Hackney's Bogeyman

House of Lords in the new session of Parliament in order to give itself the power to implement the measures.

Hackney's first response was to write in protest to Geoffrey Finsberg, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment. In the letter John Kotz, Deputy Leader of the Council, said: "We are left with a serious doubt whether ministers have any real basis for understanding the almost impossible situation confronting a borough like ours."

Unfortunately, no reply had been forthcoming from the DOE at the time of Hackney's September Council meeting.

There seems little chance of stopping the £200 million Rate Support Grant reductions but it is possible that the arbitrary moves against the Urban Aid Programme and the "unlucky 14" could be stopped. Lobbying of peers of both parties is underway and legal action is in the pipeline. Heseltine will be taken to court by the 13 affected Labour councils for using his powers in an arbitrary manner. The initiative was brought about at a Labour meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. But to the government's embarrassment the Association of County Councils Conservative members have been seeking Labour support to throw out some sections of the Local Government Bill.

DRASTIC RESULT

If the battle is not won the results will be drastic. Already council jobs are being pruned (see separate article). Local government is under attack, and fundamentally its very autonomy is threatened by a government which came to power on a manifesto promising decentralisation and more autonomy for local councils.

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